

What is Claimed is:

1. A system for handling data requests in a distributed data delivery network, the system comprising:
 - 5 a data resource request modifier, adapted to intercept and modify a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network prior to said data resource request reaching a data server in said network, to create a modified data resource request; and
 - a data delivery device, adapted to control routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data resource
 - 10 request.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
 - said data resource request includes a data resource request metafile;
 - said data resource request modifier is adapted to modify said data resource request
 - 15 metafile to create a modified data resource request metafile included in said modified data resource request; and
 - said data delivery device is adapted to control routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data resource request metafile.
- 20 3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
 - said data delivery device issues a response to said user based on said modified data resource request to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.
- 25 4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
 - said modified data resource request includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.
5. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
 - said data server identified by said data in said modified data resource request is
 - 30 different from a data server identified by data in said data resource request prior to modification.

6. A system for handling a response to a data request in a distributed data delivery network, the system comprising:

5 a data response modifier, adapted to intercept and modify a data response issued by a data server in said network in response to a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network, before said response reaches said user, to create a modified data response; and

a data delivery device, adapted to control routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data response.

10 7. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said data response includes a data response metafile;

said data response modifier is adapted to modify said data response metafile to create a modified data response metafile included in said modified data response; and

15 said data delivery device is adapted to control routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data response metafile.

8. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said data delivery device issues said modified data response to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.

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9. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said modified data response includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.

25 10. A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said data server identified by said data in said modified data response is different from a data server identified by data in said data response prior to modification.

30 11. A method for handling data requests in a distributed data delivery network, the method comprising:

intercepting and modifying a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network prior to said data resource request reaching a data server in said network, to create a modified data resource request; and

controlling routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data resource request.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

said data resource request includes a data resource request metafile;

said data resource request modifying step includes modifying said data resource request metafile to create a modified data resource request metafile included in said modified data resource request; and

said controlling step includes controlling routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data resource request metafile.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

issuing a response to said user based on said modified data resource request to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

said modified data resource request includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

said data server identified by said data in said modified data resource request is different from a data server identified by data in said data resource request prior to modification.

16. A method for handling a response to a data request in a distributed data delivery network, the system comprising:

intercepting and modifying a data response issued by a data server in said network in response to a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network, before said response reaches said user, to create a modified data response; and

controlling routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data response.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

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said data response includes a data response metafile;

said data response modifying step includes modifying said data response metafile to create a modified data response metafile included in said modified data response; and

said controlling step includes controlling routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data response metafile.

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18. A method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

issuing said modified data response to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.

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19. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said modified data response includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

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said data server identified by said data in said modified data response is different from a data server identified by data in said data response prior to modification.